REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-33 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 15, 17 and 24 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13-16 and 29 are amended herein and Claims 30-33 are newly added. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. Applicants submit that support for the amendments to the specification may be found, for example, in Example 1, and that support for the claim amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 15, 16 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016249 (Kitamura et al.). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 15, 16 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kitamura et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a recording medium for ink. The recording medium includes a substrate, an undercoat layer and a porous ink receiving layer provided in this order. The undercoat layer includes an increasing region in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with a coloring agent contained in ink and holding said coloring agent is present with such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth of the undercoat layer, and a position with the maximum concentration of the reactive substance is in the increasing region.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 15, as amended, is directed to a substrate for a recording medium for ink and for forming an ink receiving layer containing at least a pigment for holding a coloring agent of an ink and a binder for said pigment. The substrate includes an increasing region, in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent and holding the coloring agent is present in such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth, as viewed from a surface on which the ink receiving layer is to be formed.

Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to teach or suggest important features of Applicants' claimed invention.

Kitamura et al. is directed to an ink jet recording material having a pigment, a binder and at least one ink receiving layer formed on a substrate. Specifically, Kitamura et al. discloses that the recording material may include at least one ink receiving inside layer formed on the substrate and an ink receiving outermost layer laminated on the outer surface of the ink receiving inside layer. As a consequence of the disclosure that the ink receiving layer is formed on the substrate, Applicants submit that Kitamura et al. fails to teach or suggest, at least, that the recording material includes a substrate, an undercoat layer and a porous ink receiving layer provided in this order, as recited in Claim 1. Moreover, Applicants submit that Kitamura et al. discloses the conventional approach of adding a cationic compound in the ink receiving layer in order to improve moisture fastness (or to help prevent migration). Applicants submit that this approach has the problem in that ink which has passed through the ink receiving layer laterally travels along the interface between the paper substrate and the ink receiving layer, which results in migration. The present invention, as recited in Claim 1, can solve this problem by arranging

an undercoat layer between the substrate and the ink receiving layer. The undercoat layer has the increasing region of the reactive substance as well as the position with the maximum concentration of the reactive substance.

At paragraph [0133], Kitamura et al. also discloses that the substrate may be a paper sheet that may be coated with a cationic resin in the size-press step of the paper forming procedure. The Examiner suggests that this treatment should inherently cause a gradient of a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent because most ink jet ink dyes are anionic and because Applicants disclose achieving the gradient of reactive substance by coating the substrate with a cationic material prior to coating with the undercoating. Applicants submit, however, that even assuming, *arguendo*, that the Examiner's suggestion is correct, there has been no showing that the reactive substance would inherently be present in such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth, as viewed from a surface on which the ink receiving layer is to be formed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion that the substrate includes an increasing region, in which a reactive substance capable of reacting with the coloring agent and holding the coloring agent is present in such a distribution as to increase in the direction of depth, as viewed from a surface on which the ink receiving layer is to be formed, as recited in Claim 15.

Applicants also note that, as amended, Claim 4, which is dependent on Claim 1, recites that the increasing region is not present in the ink receiving layer (i.e. the cationic substance of the undercoat layer is not contained in the ink receiving layer). With this feature, the migrating coloring agent is urged to penetrate the undercoat layer, thereby relatively causing the coloring agent to travel in the direction of depth. Thus, lateral migration of the coloring agent

along the interface between the paper substrate and the ink receiving layer can be suppressed. As a result, it becomes possible to ensure clear images and to considerably decrease image bleeding caused by the lateral migration.

Thus, in view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Kitamura et al. fails to anticipate or render obvious Applicants' claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over Claims 1-26 of Application No. 10/664,872, in view of Kitamura et al. Since the cited claims are not yet patented, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be held in abeyance, and be reconsidered in view of Applicants' amendments and remarks, above, regarding Kitamura et al.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 15. Dependent Claims 4, 5, 7-14, 16 and 29-33 are also patentable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

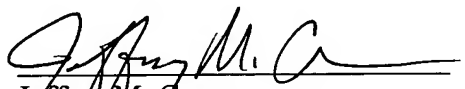
Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment was not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. At the very least, it places the application in better form

for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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